

[0029] Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

1 1. A wind guard for use on a pickup mechanism attachable to the frame of a  
2 crop harvesting machine, said wind guard comprising:

3 an elongate wind guard pipe extending transversely of said pickup  
4 mechanism;

5 a plurality of tines attached to said wind guard pipe along the length  
6 thereof;

7 said wind guard pipe being movable in a first direction upwardly and away  
8 from said pickup mechanism and in a second direction downwardly and toward  
9 said pickup mechanism during operation of said pickup mechanism;

10 first and second support links supporting said wind guard pipe, each  
11 having first and second opposing ends, said first ends of said support links  
12 pivotably affixed to said pickup mechanism;

13 said second ends of said first and second support links each having an  
14 open U-shaped slot therein into which said wind guard pipe is fitted;

15 a first latch plate having a semi-circular cutout therein of a diameter  
16 sufficient to partially enclose said wind guard pipe, said first latch plate pivotably  
17 affixed to said first support link adjacent said U-shaped slot therein and movable  
18 between a latched position where said cutout partially encloses said wind guard  
19 pipe and an unlatched position where said cutout does not partially enclose said  
20 wind guard pipe; and

21 a latch retainer interconnectable between each said respective latch plate  
22 and support link to prevent inadvertent movement of said first and second latch  
23 plates to the unlatched position.

1 2. The wind guard of claim 1, wherein:

2 said first and second latch plates are pivotably affixed to respective first  
3 and second support links by spring bolts.

- 1 3. The wind guard of claim 2, wherein:  
2 each said latch retainer includes a hole through the respective latch plate  
3 and a carriage bolt affixed through the respective support link, the rounded head  
4 of the carriage bolt positioned to engage said hole through the respective latch  
5 plate when the respective latch plate is in said latched position.
- 1 4. The wind guard of claim 3, wherein:  
2 said support links are positioned such that the respective first ends thereof  
3 are adjacent the ends of said wind guard pipe.
- 1 5. In a wind guard for use on a pickup mechanism attachable to the frame of  
2 a crop harvesting machine, said wind guard including an elongate wind guard  
3 pipe held in position by first and second support links, each with a pivotable latch  
4 plate affixed thereto and positioned such that said latch plate engages said wind  
5 guard pipe in a latched position, the improvement comprising:  
6 a latch retainer interconnectable between each said respective latch plate  
7 and support link to prevent inadvertent movement of said respective latch plates  
8 out of said latched position.
- 1 6. The improvement of claim 5, wherein:  
2 said first and second latch plates are pivotably affixed to respective first  
3 and second support links by spring bolts.
- 1 7. The improvement of claim 6, further including:  
2 each said latch retainer includes a hole through the respective latch plate  
3 and a carriage bolt affixed through the respective support link, the rounded head  
4 of the carriage bolt positioned to engage said hole through the respective latch  
5 plate when the respective latch plate is in said latched position.